

Work Task E10: Walker Lake

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$61,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Contact: Gregg Garnett, (702) 293-8644

Start Date: FY05 **Expected Duration:** Closed in FY05

Long-Term Goal: Habitat Creation

Conservation Measures: CLRA1, BONY2, RASU2, LEBI1, and BLRA1

Location: Reach 5, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, River Mile 85.5, CA

Purpose: Evaluate Walker Lake as a potential habitat creation project. Improvements will be targeted to provide consistent water to the site to maintain breeding habitat requirements for covered marsh, SWFL, and/or native fish.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This Work Task was previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Walker Lake, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (E11). Walker Lake has been identified as a potential backwater creation project and will be evaluated using Work Task E15. Work Task E10 has been closed.

Project Description: Located on Imperial NWR, Walker Lake is a historically occupied SWFL site on the LCR. Currently, Walker Lake maintains a subsurface connection to the LCR. Seasonally, surface water is reduced in the area or not present in the lake. In addition, high evaporation rates have concentrated salts in the lake and the surrounding soil. The project includes dredging/excavating a shallow channel to provide continual surface flow into Walker Lake to maintain open water, marsh habitat, and flooded adjacent forested habitats throughout the breeding seasons of the Yuma clapper rail and SWFL.

With the concurrence of the Refuge Manager, Walker Lake is not being actively investigated, and will be removed from the FY06 and FY07 work plans. An alternate location was selected to meet the backwater creation commitments of the SIA. The lake will be evaluated along with other potential backwater projects using established backwater screening protocols. The costs for preliminary investigations in FY05/FY06 were not incurred by the LCR MSCP.

FY05 Accomplishments: Conceptual design and surveying was initiated, and preliminary project scoping and scheduling completed. An initial conceptual design and scoping meeting was conducted to prepare a number of options and approaches to present to FWS.

FY06 Activities: This Work Task is closed.